



Questions from the Chamber

1. The city recently changed transit routes and services. The changes have created a negative backlash all over the city. What are your thoughts on the changes, and what do you recommend need to be done going forward. Do you have a bigger picture idea for transportation options in the future.

Response

Around June 2025, the City of Winnipeg introduced a new policy known as the Primary Transit Network (PTN), intended to overhaul the transit system. Its goals included increasing service frequency, simplifying routes, improving reliability, making journeys more direct, and expanding transportation services to accommodate a growing population. Like any policy, however, such changes can have unintended consequences, especially when stakeholders who may be positively or negatively affected are not adequately consulted or involved in decision-making. I do not know how extensively the City consulted affected stakeholders or assessed the potential unintended consequences before implementing the PTN. However, my personal experience, that of my family, and feedback from other Waverley West residents point to mixed outcomes.

These include additional costs to the City, monetary and non-monetary costs to families, connectivity challenges, longer travel times, longer walking distances, and the need for passengers to learn new routes and adapt to service changes, among others. Public transit should not be made too complicated. I lived in Berlin, Germany for over eight years during my graduate university program. Within the time I lived in Berlin, I had no need to buy a car for the family because of well connected, flexible, reliable and adequate public transit options. However, when we relocated to Winnipeg, less than three months we were forced to buy a car.

My recommendation is that the original PTN plan be reviewed based on actual feedback from passengers and families. All stakeholders who may be affected by the changes should be consulted and involved in decision-making, particularly if they were not adequately engaged when the policy was first developed.

The review should also include broader consultation with relevant organizations, such as the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, experts from public institutions with transportation departments, and current and retired Winnipeg Transit staff. Their input would help provide a more balanced assessment of the policy, its outcomes, and the changes needed to improve the transit system.

With respect to the bigger picture, I envision a city that prioritizes long-term planning rather than short-term reactive decisions. About 120 years ago, Winnipeg was one of the fastest-growing cities of its size in North America. City leaders envisioned Winnipeg as the “Chicago of North America,” and the city later became the third-largest city in Canada. Winnipeg introduced its first electric streetcar in 1891, and by 1892, electric streetcars were operating as public transit. Rail lines also connected Winnipeg with communities such as Selkirk.

Based on what I have been hearing from residents while knocking on doors, I believe Winnipeg is overdue for exploring alternative public transit options, including light rail connections. Existing rail lines could potentially be adapted for passenger transit, subject to feasibility studies, infrastructure requirements, and agreements with the relevant rail operators. With electricity available as an energy source, light rail could also offer opportunities to support more sustainable transportation and stimulate economic development.

My vision is for Winnipeg to look beyond immediate transit challenges and develop a long-term transportation plan that considers population growth, connectivity, affordability, economic development, and the needs of residents across the city.

2. Environmental issues are becoming increasingly important. As weather patterns shift it has impacted city-wide services and costs. How important is addressing climate and environment in your platform and how would you get the city to pay attention to this issue.

Response

I have a second Master's degree in Natural Resources Management, so I understand how our choices and actions affect our immediate environment and the global climate. Although some people still question whether climate change is real or caused by human activities, we are all familiar with the growing challenges associated with wildfires, flooding, extreme temperatures, drought, and other environmental changes. I often say, "If we mess up with nature, nature will mess up with us." Unless we are intentional and proactive in addressing climate change and environmental challenges, we will continue to face rising costs for city services. Whether people believe in climate change or not, we will all be affected by the consequences of environmental neglect.

I have served as a Winnipeg Hub Associate for The Climate Reality Project, advocating for and promoting initiatives that support climate adaptation, reduce our carbon footprint, and improve climate resilience.

Recently, some green median strips along our streets have been replaced with asphalt. Lakes and retention ponds in our neighbourhoods are also affected by pollution, and we are witnessing other environmental concerns in our communities. These issues need to be addressed. Green median strips should not be replaced with asphalt simply because of maintenance challenges. Other alternatives should be explored to preserve green spaces while ensuring that they remain practical and affordable to maintain.

One of the memorable—and serious—pieces of feedback I received while knocking on doors came from two seniors on separate occasions. They suggested that, if I am elected, I should turn our boulevards into "Kale Boulevard." Their comments reflect an interest in making better use of neighbourhood green spaces, including opportunities for urban gardening.

If elected, I will work collaboratively with other councillors, the Mayor, other levels of government, residents, and relevant stakeholders to make climate and environmental considerations an integral part of the City's decisions. I will advocate for a more intentional and proactive approach that considers how our actions, decisions, and inaction affect both our local environment and the global climate. This includes exploring practical, cost-effective alternatives that protect green spaces, reduce pollution, strengthen climate resilience, and help manage the long-term costs of city services.

Rather than making short-term decisions to replace green median strips with asphalt, I would consult residents who pay high property taxes to understand their priorities. I would also advocate for assessing the environmental impacts and long-term maintenance costs of all available options before replacing green medians with asphalt.

When I noticed the conversion of green median strips to asphalt, I contacted the company that designed the Bridgwater neighbourhoods to understand the original plan for the boulevards and median strips. Replacing green median strips with asphalt raises concerns about the additional costs to residents, as well as the long-term maintenance of the asphalt and flower pots.

3. Public concern is growing about the number of interest groups and influencers that are impacting councillors' opinions and decisions. Citizens want a councillor that will represent the ward's issues without bending to these influences. How do you assure voters you'll represent this community, and listen to the community's concerns, rather than create alliances and interest groups.

Response

Recently, a CTV reporter asked me who had endorsed me and which union was supporting me. I explained that I had not received an endorsement from any individual, group, or union. While an endorsement may signal the endorser's trust in a candidate, I believe residents should also have the opportunity to assess a candidate's experience, values, ideas, and commitment to serving the public interest.

I have taught Political Science courses, and I understand lobbying, pressure groups, interest groups, and political patronage, as well as how they can affect the public interest. I have also volunteered for political candidates since 2013, including City Council candidates, candidates and elected Members of Parliament (MPs), and provincial Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs). I have served, and continue to serve, in various organizations, and I also ran in the 2023 provincial election.

It would be easy for me to approach individuals, groups, or associations for endorsements. However, I have intentionally chosen not to do so because I do not intend to be a rubber-stamp city councillor.

I want to be accountable and responsive to the people who entrust me with the responsibility of representing them at City Hall. Those who elect me as their city councillor will be my endorsers, and their voices will count. I want to be a trusted voice for everyone in Waverley West. I will continue to consult residents, listen to their concerns, and make decisions based on their priorities and the public interest.

4. Many businesses identify human resource matters as a concern. Recruiting and retaining top talent, dealing with remote work arrangements, promoting diversity and maximizing employee productivity are just a few of the key topics. Workforce availability is always a pain point, particularly in manufacturing and trades. How would you deal with these issues for city employees?

Response

Part of my campaign priorities is to expand alternative revenue sources so that Winnipeg relies less heavily on property taxes and other fees, including ticketing and radar-camera revenue, to fund its budget. This would help create more room to address the City's infrastructure and service needs while supporting long-term planning.

I have written a letter that I distributed to business owners, entrepreneurs, and start-ups in Waverley West. If elected, I will broaden these consultations to better understand the challenges businesses face, including recruiting and retaining talented employees. Some of the factors that make it difficult for businesses to remain in Winnipeg may also affect their ability to attract and retain skilled workers.

As part of my goal of supporting a more diversified economy and developing alternative revenue sources, I will engage with the University of Manitoba's IDEA START, experts from public institutions that support business development and skills training, Chambers of Commerce, and other stakeholders to explore ways to better support small-business growth. I will also consult with provincial stakeholders to understand why some people who immigrate to Manitoba through the Provincial Nominee Program subsequently relocate to other provinces, and why some graduates leave Manitoba after completing their studies.

Regarding City employees, I would review current recruitment and retention challenges and the policies intended to address them to gain an informed understanding of what works and what does not. I would engage with stakeholders to encourage greater employee feedback, explore suitable workplace arrangements, support professional development, and identify opportunities to improve productivity. I would also support fair and inclusive employment practices and collaboration with relevant unions and employee representatives. Understanding the causes of workforce challenges would help inform practical solutions that support employees while ensuring the City can continue delivering reliable public services.

Questions Received from the Public

1. What are you going to do to make it safe for small businesses to push their panic alarm buttons and have police show up?

Response

I have witnessed several incidents of businesses being robbed and vandalized, including in Waverley West. Beyond the safety of employees, customers, and bystanders, these incidents are harmful to local businesses and the wider economy. One of my campaign priorities is to support additional resources and the use of technology for neighbourhood policing, alongside social programs that address the underlying causes of criminal behaviour.

I recognize the challenges Winnipeg Police Service faces in terms of staffing and resources. However, we must also prioritize making Winnipeg a safer and more welcoming place to operate a business. I would consult with business owners, the Winnipeg Police Service, and security professionals to review existing measures and explore newer technologies that could improve business security and emergency response.

I would also advocate for working with the Winnipeg Police Service understand the cause of delays in responding to panic alarms response. I would like to learn what gaps hinder rapid response and determine what resources, protocols, and collaborations for appropriate and timely intervention. The goal is to help protect business owners, employees, customers, and business premises while supporting a safer business environment across Winnipeg.

2. Recreational infrastructure is aging – especially Pan Am Pool. What is your vision for these types of facilities?

Response

Based on available evidence, feedback from neighbours in Waverley West, and my personal experience as a parent of four children, I believe Winnipeg needs more recreational and sporting facilities, including publicly accessible swimming pools like Pan Am Pool. Presently, Winnipeg does not have enough recreational and sporting facilities, including publicly accessible swimming pools. This shortage creates significant gaps for families. While some facilities are aging, limited options can also make it more expensive for families to enroll their children in recreational and sporting activities. These challenges make it difficult for parents to secure spaces for children who want to participate in sports and activities such as swimming. Some residents have also expressed dissatisfaction with the availability and lack of maintenance of current recreational facilities.

Parents have told me that their children's participation in sporting and recreational activities helps reduce the time they spend on screens and keeps them engaged in constructive activities. Some also believe that these activities can help keep young people away from risky or delinquent behaviours.

Research suggests that well-designed and accessible recreational programs can support children's and young people's health, development, and well-being. They can provide constructive ways to spend free time, build positive relationships with peers and adult mentors, develop important life skills, and contribute to crime prevention.

I will support proposals to improve aging recreational facilities and build new ones where needs and population growth justify the investment. However, recreational infrastructure should be viewed as more than a collection of buildings and sports facilities. It should form part of a broader approach to youth development, community safety, physical activity, healthy screen habits, and the well-being of families. I will advocate for facilities and programs that are accessible, affordable, and responsive to the needs of our growing communities.

3. What have you accomplished in the community to prove you can efficiently collaborate with other city councilors to help push important policies forward?

Response

In my campaign literature, social media communications, personal interactions, and public speaking, I intentionally avoid the phrase "fight for." Rather than promising to fight for residents, I focus on building relationships and trust, finding common ground, and delivering results based on what people have told me matters most to them. I will bring the same collaborative approach to discussions with fellow City councillors, seeking common ground and working together to advance policies that respond to residents' needs.

For three years, I have collaborated with the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, the Head of the Department of Plant Science, the Greenhouse Manager, staff, graduate students, and other stakeholders at the University of Manitoba to grow vegetable seedlings and distribute them free of charge to community members. This initiative has reached over 1,500 community members and promotes individual and community gardening to support urban food security, mental well-being, and community integration. The new Dean has also committed to continuing this collaboration.

For many decades, Manoomin (wild rice) had not been planted in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation (BON). Through collaboration with Indigenous leadership, community members, University of Manitoba researchers, and industry stakeholders, I coordinated the planting of about 2,050 pounds of Manoomin in the BON River. This initiative demonstrates my ability to bring together people and organizations with different perspectives and expertise to pursue a shared community goal.

During my Master's program in Natural Resources Management at the University of Manitoba, I was elected twice as a University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Association Senator and I served in various Senate Committees. I also initiated and completed projects, including fundraising for the University of Manitoba Graduate Students' Campus Forestry Initiative.

These experiences have strengthened my ability to build relationships, bring stakeholders together, and turn shared priorities into practical initiatives. As a City councillor, I will apply these skills to work constructively with fellow councillors, the Mayor, City administration, community organizations, and residents to advance important policies and deliver results for Waverley West and Winnipeg.

4. Are you in a union? Do you have unionized employees? If so, how many and please describe leading unionized employees.

Response

No, I am not a member of a union, and I do not have unionized employees.

However, I am not opposed to unionization. Unions can play an important role in protecting their members from workplace hazards, exploitation, and unfair labour practices, while advocating for fair wages, collective bargaining rights, and other employment benefits. At the same time, unions and their activities can sometimes present challenges, including disagreements over workplace policies and government decisions.

My approach is to engage in broad consultation with all stakeholders who may be positively or negatively affected by a policy, including unions, employers, employees, and government representatives. I will emphasize respectful dialogue, fairness, and a willingness to consider different perspectives. These are crucial in developing balanced policies and maintaining constructive labour relations, without engaging in activities that often framed as ‘fighting for members’.